

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

U.S. APPLICATION NO. 10/031249

10/031249

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.
PCT/GB00/01493INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE
17 April 2000PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
23 April 1999

TITLE OF INVENTION

CUTTING TOOL

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

JOHN, Roger Bernard

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 19(1).
4. A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5. A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
 - a. is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
 - a. are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. have not been made and will not be made.
8. A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11. to 16. below concern other document(s) or information included:

11. An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. A FIRST preliminary amendment.
 A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.
14. A substitute specification.
15. A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
1. International Search Report by European Pat. Off.
16. Other items or information: 2. International Preliminary Examination Report
"Express Mail" mailing label number ET 686370165 US
Date of Deposit October 23, 2001

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail-Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D. C. 20231.



Edwin D. Schindler, Reg. No. 31,459

October 23, 2001

Date

17. The following fees are submitted:

Basic National Fee (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)): \$890.00
Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO..... \$890.00
International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482)..... \$640.00
No international preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482)
but international search fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)).. \$710.00
Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor
international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO..... \$950.00
International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482)
and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(2)-(4)..... \$90.00

CALCULATIONS FPO USE ONLY

10/031249

23 OCT 2001

531 Rec'd PCT

ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT = \$ 890.00			
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)). \$ -0-			
Claims	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate
Total 25 Claims	25 -20 -	5	X \$18.00 \$ 90.00
Independent Claims	2 - 3 -	-0-	X \$74.00 \$ -0-
Multiple dependent claims(s) (if applicable)			+ \$230.00 \$ -0-
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS = \$ 980.00			
Reduction by 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. Verified Small Entity statement must also be filed. (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28). \$ -0-			
SUBTOTAL = \$ 980.00			
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later the <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)). + \$ -0-			
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE = \$ 980.00			
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property + \$ -0-			
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED = \$ 980.00			
		Amount to be: refunded \$ charged \$	

a. A check in the amount of \$**980.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed.

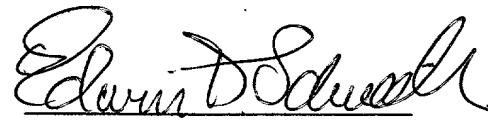
b. Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

c. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0450. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Edwin D. Schindler
Five Hirsch Avenue
P. O. Box 966
Coram, New York 11727-0966


Edwin D. Schindler

SIGNATURE

Edwin D. Schindler

NAME

31,459

REGISTRATION NUMBER

10/031249

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: ROGER BERNARD JOHN ART UNIT:
SERIAL NO.: 09/ EXAMINER:
FILED:
P.C.T. APPLICATION NO.: PCT/GB00/01493
P.C.T. INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE: APRIL 17, 2000
U.S. NATIONAL FEE PAID: OCTOBER 23, 2001
TITLE: CUTTING TOOL

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Box PCT
Washington, D. C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to an examination on the merits of the above-identified patent application, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Please use the accompanying Abstract of the Disclosure.

"Express Mail" mailing label number ET 686370165 US
Date of Deposit October 23, 2001

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail - Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Hon. Commissioner for Patents, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D. C. 20231.

Edwin D. Schindler October 23, 2001
Edwin D. Schindler, Reg. No. 31,459 Date

which is contained on a separate sheet of paper, as required by 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b), as the Abstract for the instant patent application.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Specification follows:

Page 1, between the Title of the Invention and line 1, insert the following headings:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--; and,

--Technical Field of the Invention--;

between lines 1-2, insert the following heading:

--Description of the Prior Art--;

Page 2, immediately above line 1, insert the following heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 6, between lines 23-24, insert the following heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING FIGURES--.

Page 7, between lines 7-8, insert the following heading:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING FIGURES
AND PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please rewrite the following claims to now read as

follows:

3. (Amended) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the locking action of the cutting tool is provided by a strut which is pivotally joined to the guard member, the distal end of the strut being arranged to follow a loop.

5. (Amended) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 3, wherein a lug at the distal end of the strut slidably locates within a looped recess.

8. (Amended) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the locking mechanism is arranged such that the guard member cannot be released from said safety position unless the tool is in contact with the workplace.

9. (Amended) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the blade is provided in a replaceable cartridge.

16. (Amended) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the detached end section of the blade is pressed through an opening into the containment region.

17. (Amended) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the passageway is provided in a replaceable blade-cartridge.

19. (Amended) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the tool or, where the tool comprises a replaceable blade-cartridge, the blade-cartridge, is formed from a blank

comprising three collinear elongate portions arranged to be folded together along their adjoining edges such that the passageway for receiving an elongate blade is formed between the opposed faces of two adjacent portions of the blank, and the containment region is formed between the opposed faces of one of the two adjacent portions and a face of the remaining portion.

21. (Amended) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the blank is formed from a plastic material having fold lines formed by compressed regions of the blank.

22. (Amended) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the opposed faces of the two portions which form the containment region are each formed with a plurality of projections for inhibiting movement of detached blade sections within the containment region.

REMARKS

Prior to an examination on the merits of the above-identified patent application, please enter the foregoing amendments.

Claims 1-25 are now pending in the above-identified patent application, as presented by the instant Preliminary Amendment. Claims 1 and 23 are presented in independent form.

The present application represents the U.S. National Phase of P.C.T. Application No. PCT/GB00/01493, filed April 17, 2000, and claiming foreign priority on the basis of a corresponding United Kingdom patent application, filed April 23, 1999.

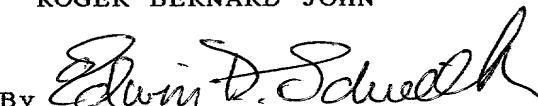
By the present amendment, dependent Claims 3, 5, 8, 9, 16, 17, 19, 21 and 22 have been amended in order to remove the multiple dependencies therefrom. Various amendments have also been entered into the Specification and claims for the purpose of improved form. An Abstract on a separate sheet of paper, as required by 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b), is also enclosed.

A "marked-up" version of the claim amendments being entered is attached to this Preliminary Amendment.

The application is now in condition for a full examination on the merits.

Accordingly, an early examination on the merits and allowance are, therefore, respectfully requested and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
ROGER BERNARD JOHN

By 
Edwin D. Schindler
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 31,459

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October 23, 2001

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A cutting tool having a blade and a member which is biased toward a safety position, in which the member forms a guard for the blade, but which may be displaced for exposing the blade by bringing the tool into cutting contact with a workpiece. The cutting tool includes a locking mechanism having a trigger which must be moved from a first position to a second position to release the guard member from its safety position and which is arranged, so that each time the guard member is released from its safety position, it is displaced through a predetermined distance and then returns to its safety position. The guard member will become locked in place regardless of the position of the trigger.

10,031249
531 Rec'd PCTM 23 OCT 2001

VERSION OF AMENDMENTS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE
(Dated October 23, 2001)

IN THE CLAIMS

Please rewrite the following claims to now read as follows:

3. (Amended) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 1, [or Claim 2,] wherein the locking action of the cutting tool is provided by a strut which is pivotally joined to the guard member, the distal end of the strut being arranged to follow a loop.

5. (Amended) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 3, [or Claim 4,] wherein a lug at the distal end of the strut slidably locates within a looped recess.

8. (Amended) A cutting tool as claimed in [any preceding claim,] Claim 1, wherein the locking mechanism is arranged such that the guard member cannot be released from said safety position unless the tool is in contact with the workplace.

9. (Amended) A cutting tool as claimed in [any preceding claim,] Claim 1, wherein the blade is provided in a replaceable cartridge.

16. (Amended) A cutting tool as claimed in [any of Claims 13 to 15,] Claim 13, wherein the detached end section

MARKED-UP AMENDMENTS-1

of the blade is pressed through an opening into the containment region.

17. (Amended) A cutting tool as claimed in [any of Claims 13 to 16,] Claim 13, wherein the passageway is provided in a replaceable blade-cartridge.

19. (Amended) A cutting tool as claimed in [any of Claims 13 to 18,] Claim 13, wherein the tool or, where the tool comprises a replaceable blade-cartridge, the blade-cartridge, is formed from a blank comprising three collinear elongate portions arranged to be folded together along their adjoining edges such that the passageway for receiving an elongate blade is formed between the opposed faces of two adjacent portions of the blank, and the containment region is formed between the opposed faces of one of the two adjacent portions and a face of the remaining portion.

21. (Amended) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 19, [or Claim 20,] wherein the blank is formed from a [plastics] plastic material having fold lines formed by compressed regions of the blank.

22. (Amended) A cutting tool as claimed in [any of Claims 19 to 21,] Claim 19, wherein the opposed faces of the two portions which form the containment region are each formed with a plurality of projections for inhibiting movement of detached blade sections within the containment region.

MARKED-UP AMENDMENTS-2

Applicant ~~xxxPatentee~~: Roger Bernard John

Attorney's

Serial ~~xxxExhibit No. 1~~:

Docket No.:

Filed or Issued:

For: CUTTING TOOL

VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY
STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27(b)) - INDEPENDENT INVENTOR

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled Cutting Tool described in

the specification filed herewith
 application serial no. PCT/GB00/01493, filed 17 April 2000.
 patent no. , issued

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

no such person, concern, or organization
 persons, concerns or organizations listed below.

*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

FULL NAME Moving Edge Limited

CP63

ADDRESS Challenge House 52-54 Holton Road Barry Vale of Glamorgan 4HE

INDIVIDUAL SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

FULL NAME

ADDRESS

INDIVIDUAL SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

FULL NAME

ADDRESS

INDIVIDUAL SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF INVENTOR

NAME OF INVENTOR

NAME OF INVENTOR

Roger Bernard John

Signature of Inventor

X
Date

18.10.01

Signature of Inventor

X
Date

Signature of Inventor

X
Date

Applicant or Patentee: Roger Bernard John
Serial No. or Patent No.: _____
Filed or Issued: _____
For: CUTTING TOOL

Attorney's
Docket No.: _____

VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27(c)) - SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN

I hereby declare that I am

the owner of the small business concern identified below;
 an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below;

NAME OF CONCERN Moving Edge Limited
ADDRESS OF CONCERN Challenge House 52-54 Holton Road Barry
Vale of Glamorgan CF63 4HE United Kingdom

I hereby declare that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR 121.3-18, and reproduced in 37 CFR 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention, entitled Cutting Tool by inventor(s)

described in

the specification filed herewith
 application serial no. PCT/GB00/01493, filed 17 April 2000.
 patent no. _____, issued _____.

If the rights held by the above identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights to the invention is listed below* and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who could not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e). *NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

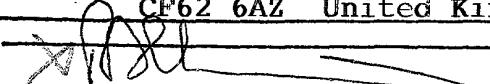
NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
 INDIVIDUAL SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
 INDIVIDUAL SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING Peter Balchin
TITLE OF PERSON OTHER THAN OWNER Director
ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING 10 Romilly Road, Barry Vale of Glamorgan
CF62 6AZ United Kingdom

SIGNATURE  DATE 18 October 2001

Cutting Tool

The present invention relates to a cutting tool.

The majority of existing cutting tools comprise an elongate handle and a blade portion having a cutting edge extending axially from the handle.

5 When using such a tool to perform a cutting operation, it is usual for a person to grip the handle of the tool and to draw the blade of the tool towards himself or sideways through a workpiece.

However, as the blade of the tool is released from the 10 workpiece at the end of a cut, the person holding the tool often finds it difficult to maintain control of the tool, thus creating a serious safety hazard both to himself and to those around him.

An arrangement has been proposed wherein a tool is 15 provided with a member which is biassed towards a safety position in which the member forms a guard for the blade of the tool, but which may be displaced to expose the blade by bringing the tool into cutting contact with a workpiece. The tool is further provided with a latch which must be released 20 by depressing a trigger to allow the guard member to be displaced. Thus, inadvertent exposure of the blade is prevented.

However, in order to overcome the safety hazard described above, the trigger must be released before the end 25 of a cut to allow the latch to re-engage the guard member as soon as the tool is released from a workpiece: we have found that there is a tendency for persons using such tools not to release the trigger in sufficient time to prevent accidental cuts from occurring.

30 We have now devised an arrangement which overcomes the above-mentioned limitations of existing cutting tools.

According to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a cutting tool having a blade and a member which is biased towards a safety position in which the member forms a guard for the blade, but which may be displaced to expose the blade by bringing the tool into cutting contact with a workpiece, and a locking mechanism having a trigger which must be moved from a first position to a second position to release the guard member from its safety position and arranged such that each time the guard member is released from its safety position, is displaced through a predetermined distance, and then returns to its safety position, the guard member will become locked in place regardless of the position of the trigger.

Thus, as the blade of the tool is released from a workpiece at the end of a cut, the guard member is re-deployed and locked in place without the operator having to release the trigger.

Preferably the guard member is pivotally mounted to the tool.

Preferably the locking action of the cutting tool is provided by a strut which is pivotally joined to the guard member, the distal end of the strut being arranged to follow a loop. Most preferably the strut is arranged to pivot in a vertical plane.

Preferably a lug at the distal end of the strut slidably locates within a looped recess. Preferably the recess comprises a guide-channel which extends substantially perpendicularly to the axis of the longitudinal axis of the strut and within which the lug prevents substantial axial movement of the strut. Preferably as the trigger is displaced from said first position to said second position, the strut is displaced such that lug slides out of one end of the channel.

Preferably the locking mechanism is arranged such that

the guard member cannot be released from said safety position unless the tool is in contact with the workpiece.

Preferably the blade is provided in a replaceable cartridge.

5 Cutting tools are also known in which a blade is mounted to a sliding blade-carriage for advancing and retracting the blade in predetermined increments. For example, it is known to form a blade with a number of lines of weakness defining successive blade sections which may be detached, one
10 at a time, from the end of the blade to maintain a sharp edge to the blade. The blade-carriage may therefore be arranged to be advanced in increments equal to the width of each blade segment.

However, in many circumstances, it would be desirable
15 for the blade to be advanced both in predetermined increments, for example as successive sections of the blade are detached, but also for the position of blade to be adjusted by a much finer degree, to control the depth of cut.

We have now devised an arrangement which provides both
20 coarse and fine adjustment of the blade position.

According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a cutting tool having a blade and a sliding blade-carriage formed with an elongate projection which extends substantially perpendicularly through a slot formed in the
25 blade, the projection being rotatable about an axis parallel to its longitudinal axis and the slot being of substantially the same diameter as the projection and extending substantially perpendicularly to the axis of movement of the carriage, so that as the projection is rotated, the blade is correspondingly
30 advanced or withdrawn relative to the carriage.

Thus the carriage may be slid to-and-fro to provide coarse adjustment of the blade position and the elongate projection may be rotated to provide fine adjustment of the blade position.

Preferably the blade is provided in a replaceable cartridge to which the blade-carrier is preferably mounted.

As mentioned above, it is known to provide a cutting tool with a blade formed with a number of lines of weakness defining successive blade sections.

However, in order to detach successive blade sections from the end of the blade it is typically necessary to press the end of the blade sideways against a hard surface to snap the blade along a line of weakness. The blade must therefore be exposed as the end section is detached and, should the cutting tool slip, injury may result. There is also the possibility that the detached blade portion may contaminate a product or cause injury as it is disposed of.

We have now devised an arrangement which overcomes these limitations of existing cutting tools.

According to a third aspect of the present invention, there is provided a cutting tool having a passageway for receiving a elongate blade formed with one or more lines of weakness defining successive blade sections, a portion of the tool being displaceable to detach a distal section of the blade from the remainder of the blade such that the detached blade section is retained within a containment region of the tool.

Preferably the displaceable portion comprises a portion of the passageway formed by opposed first and second walls pivotally mounted such that they may be displaced to one side of the passageway to allow an end section of the blade to be introduced into the gap thus formed, and then brought back into line with the passageway to detach the end section from the remainder of the blade.

Preferably the portion of the passageway formed by the first and second walls is arranged to pivot away from the passageway about the forward edge of the portion.

Preferably, the detached end section of the blade is pressed through an opening into the containment region.

Preferably the passageway is provided in a replaceable blade-cartridge, which may also provide the containment region for receiving detached blade sections.

Preferably the tool or, where the tool comprises a 5 replaceable blade-cartridge, the blade-cartridge, is formed from a blank comprising three collinear elongate portions arranged to be folded together along their adjoining edges such that the passageway for receiving an elongate blade is formed between the opposed faces of two adjacent portions of the 10 blank, and the containment region is formed between the opposed faces of one of the two adjacent portions and a face of the remaining portion.

Preferably the blank is arranged for two adjacent portions of the blank to be folded together, to form the 15 passageway between their opposed faces, and for the portions on opposite sides of the blank to then be folded together, to form the containment region between their opposed faces.

Preferably the blank is formed from a plastics material having fold lines formed by compressed regions of the blank.

20 Preferably the opposed faces of the two portions which form the containment region are each formed with a plurality of projections for inhibiting movement of detached blade sections within the containment region.

It is known to provide a cutting tool with a 25 replaceable cartridge from which a blade may be extended and retracted. However, such cartridges present a serious safety hazard where it is possible for the blade of the cartridge to be exposed when the cartridge is outside of the tool.

We have now devised an arrangement which overcomes this 30 problem.

According to a fourth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a cutting tool comprising a replaceable blade-cartridge within which a blade is carried such that the blade may be slid from an exposed position to a retracted

position and comprising means for preventing the cartridge from being removed from the tool whilst the blade is in its exposed position and means which lock the blade in its retracted position as the cartridge is removed from the tool.

5 Preferably the tool comprises a blade-carrier and the means for preventing the cartridge from being removed from the tool whilst the blade is in its exposed position comprises a pivoting catch having a first portion which engages a part of the tool body when the blade is in its exposed position, and
10 10 a second portion which is displaced by the blade-carrier when the blade is in its retracted position to disengage the first portion from said part of the tool body.

Preferably the tool comprises a blade-carrier and the means which lock the blade in its retracted position as the
15 15 cartridge is removed from the tool comprises a pivoting catch having a first portion which engages the blade-carrier when the blade is in its retracted position and the cartridge is outside of the tool, and a second portion which is displaced by a part of the tool body when the blade is inserted into the tool to
20 20 disengage the first portion from the blade-carrier.

The arrangement thus significantly reduces the risk of the blade being exposed when the cartridge is outside of the tool.

Embodiments of the present invention will now be
25 25 described by way of examples only and with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a exploded view of the various parts which form a cutting tool in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 2 is a view of a partially assembled cutting
30 30 tool;

Figure 3 is a side elevation of a partially assembled cutting tool;

Figure 4 is a view of a blade-cartridge in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 5 is a series of sectional plan views showing the sequence of operations for detaching a blade section; and

Figures 6 to 9 are respectively a top plan view, a side view, a bottom plan view and a perspective view of a blank from 5 which a blade cartridge is formed; and

Figure 10 is a perspective view of a recessed portion of a tool in accordance with the present invention.

Referring to Figures 1 to 3 of the drawings, a cutting tool is shown to comprise a pair of opposed cover plates 2,4, 10 which when brought together provide a handle for the device.

Projections 6,8 formed on the inner surface of each of the cover plates 2,4 provide a passageway 10 which extends longitudinally through the handle for receiving a replaceable blade-cartridge 12, which may be slid into the passageway 10 15 via an opening 14 formed between the cover plates 2,4 at the rear of the handle.

A blade 16 is contained within the cartridge 12 in a passageway 18 which is closed at its rear end but is formed with an opening 20 at its forward end, through which a limited 20 portion of the blade 16 may be extended, so that, when the cartridge 12 is inserted into the handle, the extended portion will project through an opening 22 at the forward end of the handle.

A guard member 24 is arranged to be pivotally mounted 25 at the forward end of the handle to conceal the extended blade portion of a cartridge 12 inserted into the handle.

The guard member 24 may be spring biassed or, as shown in the drawings, may be formed with a pair of resilient arms 26,28 which, in the assembled device, extend rearwardly into 30 the handle and bear upon the base wall 30 of the handle to bias the guard member 24 such that a portion 32 of the guard member normally projects through the opening 22 at the forward end of the handle, but may be displaced into the handle by pressing the guard member 24 against a workpiece.

A strut 34 is pivotally joined by a thin membrane 36 or may be hinged to the top of the guard member 24 and is bifurcated to provide a pair of resilient arms 38,40, each of which is formed at its distal end with a respective lug 42,44.

5 The lugs 42,44 are positioned to locate within respective profiled recesses 46 formed in the inner surfaces of the opposed cover plates 2,4.

A guide-channel 48 at the forward end of each profiled recess 46 decreases in depth both upwardly and downwardly away 10 from its midpoint, thereby forming a trough into which a lug 42,44 is normally biased by its respective arm 38,40. In this position, a buttress 50, to the rear of each lug 42,44, prevents the projecting portion 32 of the guard member 24 from being displaced into the handle.

15 A pair of triggers for releasing the guard member are provided in the form of respective tongues 52,54 formed in the two cover plates 2,4. By providing triggers on the opposite sides of the handle, the tool may be operated by either left or right-handed persons.

20 Each tongue 52,54 is formed on its inner surface with a projection 56, which aligns with a corresponding tapered projection 58,60 formed on a respective side of the strut 34. Thus, by pressing upon either of the tongues 52,54, the strut 34 may be deflected upwards to release the guard member 24.

25 With the lugs 42,44 clear of their respective buttresses 50 the projecting portion 32 of the guard member 24 may be displaced into the handle by pressing the guard member 24 against a workpiece.

By displacing the projecting portion 32 of the guard 30 member 24 into the handle, the lugs 42,44 are driven backwards along upper guide-channels 62 of their respective recesses 46. The depth of each recess 46 increases towards the rear of its upper guide-channel 62, across a region 64. An abrupt increase in the depth of each recess 46 at the lower edge 66 of the

region 64 defines a lower guide-channel 68 into which the lugs 42,44 are driven by the recoil action of the resilient arms 38,40.

The abrupt increase in the depth of each recess 46 5 between its upper and lower guide-channels 62,68 ensures one-way travel of the lugs 42,44 around the circuits formed by their respective guide-channels 48,62,68.

As the guard member 24 is released from the workpiece and pivots forwards under the recoil action of the arms 26,28, 10 the lugs 42,44 are drawn forwards along the lower guide-channels 68 of their respective recesses 46. A gradual decrease, followed by an abrupt increase in the depth of each recess 46, towards the forward end of its lower guide-channel 68, ensures that, when the guard member 24 is fully re- 15 deployed, the lugs 42,44 are prevented from returning along the lower guide-channels 68 of their respective recesses 46. The guard member 24 is thus locked in place regardless of whether pressure on the tongues 52,54 has been released.

If pressure is maintained on one or both of the tongues 20 52,54, whilst the tool is removed from a workpiece, then as that pressure is released, the lugs 42,44 slide upwards into the troughs formed in the guide-channels 48 at the forward ends of their respective recesses 46, under the recoil action of the resilient arms 38,40.

25 Alternatively, the projections 56 formed on the inner surfaces of the tongues 42,54 and the tapered projections 58,60 of the strut 34 may be arranged such that by pressing upon either of the tongues 52,54, the strut will be deflected downwards (rather than upwards) out of the trough in its 30 respective forward recess 48, to release the guard member 24.

In this embodiment, each recess 46 is profiled as shown in Figure 10 such that by subsequently displacing the projecting portion 32 of the guard member 24 into the handle, by pressing the tool against a workpiece, the lugs 42,44 are

driven backwards along the lower guide-channels 68 of their respective recesses 46.

Each of the lower guide-channels 68 decreases in depth towards the rear of its respective recess 46, with an abrupt 5 increase 69 in the depth at the rear of each channel 68 forcing the lugs 42,44 to follow the upper guide-channels 62 of their respective recesses 46 when the tool is released from the surface of a workpiece. The upper guide-channels 62 decrease in depth towards the front of their respective recesses 46, 10 with an abrupt increase 71 in depth at the front of each channel 62 preventing the lugs 42,44 from entering the upper guide-channels 62 when the guard member is fully deployed.

A carriage 70 is mounted to one side of the cartridge 12 by means of a retaining portion (not shown) which locates 15 within the passageway 18. The carriage 70 is provided with a rotatable cylindrical core 72 from which an eccentric axial projection 74 extends across the passageway 18 and though a slot 76 formed in the blade 16. The slot 76 is of substantially the same diameter as the axial projection 74 and extends 20 substantially perpendicularly to the axis of movement of the blade 16, so that as the cylindrical core 72 of the carriage 70 is rotated, the blade 16 is correspondingly advanced or withdrawn by a small distance relative to the carriage 70.

The carriage 70 comprises a resilient portion 78 which, 25 when the cartridge 12 is inserted into the handle, biases a catch 80 into engagement with a corresponding pawl 82 formed in the inner surface of the cover plate 4. A button 84 extends through an elongate slot 86 formed along one side of the cover plate 4 to allow the carriage 70 to be slid backwards and 30 forwards along the cartridge 12 to move the blade 16.

The catch 80 and the opposed indentations which form the pawl 82 are shaped to provide a ratchet action which requires the button 84 to be pressed inwards to allow the blade 16 to be withdrawn into the cartridge 12.

The blade 12 is formed with a number of lines of weakness 88 which define successive blade sections 90, and the cartridge 12 of the present invention provides a convenient means for detaching a blunted section from the forward end of 5 the blade 16 to expose a fresh blade section.

As shown in Figure 4, with the cartridge 12 removed from the handle and with the blade 16 withdrawn, a portion 92 of the passageway 18 formed by opposed walls 94 and 96 may be pivoted outwards from the cartridge 12 to provide a gap 98. The 10 displacement of the wall 94 also forms an opening 100 leading to a containment region 102 in the rear of the cartridge 12.

By advancing the blade 16 into the gap 98, as shown in Figure 5a, so that its end section 104 overlies the opening 100 and then pressing the displaced portion 92 of the cartridge 12 15 back into its normal position, as shown in Figures 5b and 5c, the end section 104 is detached from the remainder of the blade by the wall 94, with the spent section 104 being pressed through the opening 100 and into the containment region 102. The remainder of the blade 16 may then be re-introduced between 20 the walls 94 and 96, as shown in Figure 5d.

Barbs 106 formed on the interior wall of the containment region 102 serve to hold spent blade sections away from the opening 100.

The cartridge 12 is further provided with a pair of 25 pivoting safety catches 108,110. The rearmost catch 110 comprises a downwardly projecting portion 112, which is deflected upwards by the retaining portion of the carriage 70, when the carriage 70 is fully retracted, to retract an upwardly projecting portion 114 of the catch. A recess 116 is formed in 30 the cover plate 4 into which the upwardly projecting portion 114 may extend, when the cartridge 12 is inserted into the handle and the carriage 70 is slid forwards, so that there is no possibility of the cartridge 12 being removed from the handle whilst the blade 16 is exposed.

The foremost catch 108 comprises a downwardly projecting portion 118 which, when the cartridge 12 is removed from the handle acts as a stop against which the retaining portion of the carriage 70 abuts, to prevent the carriage 70 from sliding forwards to expose the blade 16. The catch 108 also comprises and an upwardly projecting portion 120 which, when the cartridge 12 is inserted into the handle, is depressed by a corresponding projection 122 formed in the cover plate 4, thereby raising the downwardly projecting portion 118 of the catch to allow the carriage 70 to slide along the cartridge 12.

The cartridge 12 is formed from a blank 124 comprising a single piece of injection-moulded plastics material as shown in Figures 6 to 9. The blank comprises three collinear portions 126, 128, 130 and is formed into a cartridge by first folding faces 132 and 134 of portions 126 and 128 towards one another, to form a passageway therebetween for receiving a blade, and then folding face 136 of portion 130 towards face 138 of portion 126, to form a containment region therebetween for receiving detached blade sections though an aperture formed between the passageway and the containment region by a gap 98 in portion 126.

To allow the portions 126, 128 and 130 to be readily folded together, a pair of fold-lines 138, 140 are preferably pre-formed along the adjoining edges of the portions by compressing those regions of the blank between respective rollers.

When the blank is folded as described above, a plurality of rearwardly inclined projections 142 formed on face 136 of portion 126 and the opposed face 136 of portion 130 prevent detached blade portions, having already fallen away from the aperture formed by gap 98, from returning towards the aperture.

The cutting tool thus described comprises a number of features which make it significantly safer to use than existing

tools.

Claims.

1) A cutting tool having a blade and a member which is biased towards a safety position in which the member forms a guard for the blade, but which may be displaced to expose the 5 blade by bringing the tool into cutting contact with a workpiece, and a locking mechanism having a trigger which must be moved from a first position to a second position to release the guard member from its safety position and arranged such that each time the guard member is released from its safety 10 position, is displaced through a predetermined distance, and then returns to its safety position, the guard member will become locked in place regardless of the position of the trigger.

2) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the guard 15 member is pivotally mounted to the tool.

3) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the locking action of the cutting tool is provided by a strut which is pivotally joined to the guard member, the distal end of the strut being arranged to follow a loop.

20 4) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the strut is arranged to pivot in a vertical plane.

5) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 3 or Claim 4, wherein a lug at the distal end of the strut slidably locates within a looped recess.

25 6) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the recess comprises a guide-channel which extends substantially perpendicularly to the axis of the longitudinal axis of the strut and within which the lug prevents substantial axial

movement of the strut.

7) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 6, arranged such that as the trigger is displaced from said first position to said second position, the strut is displaced such that lug 5 slides out of one end of the channel.

8) A cutting tool as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the locking mechanism is arranged such that the guard member cannot be released from said safety position unless the tool is in contact with the workpiece.

10 9) A cutting tool as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the blade is provided in a replaceable cartridge.

10) A cutting tool having a blade and a sliding blade-carriage formed with an elongate projection which extends substantially perpendicularly through a slot formed in the 15 blade, the projection being rotatable about an axis parallel to its longitudinal axis and the slot being of substantially the same diameter as the projection and extending substantially perpendicularly to the axis of movement of the carriage, so that as the projection is rotated, the blade is correspondingly 20 advanced or withdrawn relative to the carriage.

11) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the blade is provided in a replaceable cartridge

12) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the 25 blade-carrier is mounted to the replaceable cartridge.

13) A cutting tool having a passageway for receiving a elongate blade formed with one or more lines of weakness defining successive blade sections, a portion of the tool being

displaceable to detach a distal section of the blade from the remainder of the blade such that the detached blade section is retained within a containment region of the tool.

14) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the
5 displaceable portion comprises a portion of the passageway
formed by opposed first and second walls pivotally mounted such
that they may be displaced to one side of the passageway to
allow an end section of the blade to be introduced into the gap
thus formed, and then brought back into line with the
10 passageway to detach the end section from the remainder of the
blade.

15) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the
portion of the passageway formed by the first and second walls
is arranged to pivot away from the passageway about the forward
15 edge of the portion.

16) A cutting tool as claimed in any of Claims 13 to 15,
wherein the detached end section of the blade is pressed
through an opening into the containment region.

17) A cutting tool as claimed in any of Claims 13 to 16,
20 wherein the passageway is provided in a replaceable blade-
cartridge.

18) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the
replaceable blade cartridge also provides the containment
region for receiving detached blade sections.

25 19) A cutting tool as claimed in any of Claims 13 to 18,
wherein the tool or, where the tool comprises a replaceable
blade-cartridge, the blade-cartridge, is formed from a blank
comprising three collinear elongate portions arranged to be

folded together along their adjoining edges such that the passageway for receiving an elongate blade is formed between the opposed faces of two adjacent portions of the blank, and the containment region is formed between the opposed faces of 5 one of the two adjacent portions and a face of the remaining portion.

20) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the blank is arranged for two adjacent portions of the blank to be folded together, to form the passageway between their opposed 10 faces, and for the portions on opposite sides of the blank to then be folded together, to form the containment region between their opposed faces.

21) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 19 or Claim 20, wherein the blank is formed from a plastics material having 15 fold lines formed by compressed regions of the blank.

22) A cutting tool as claimed in any of Claims 19 to 21, wherein the opposed faces of the two portions which form the containment region are each formed with a plurality of projections for inhibiting movement of detached blade sections 20 within the containment region.

23) A cutting tool comprising a replaceable blade-cartridge within which a blade is carried such that the blade may be slid from an exposed position to a retracted position and comprising means for preventing the cartridge from being removed from the 25 tool whilst the blade is in its exposed position and means which lock the blade in its retracted position as the cartridge is removed from the tool.

24) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 23, comprising a blade-carrier and wherein the means for preventing the

cartridge from being removed from the tool whilst the blade is in its exposed position comprise a pivoting catch having a first portion which engages a part of the tool body when the blade is in its exposed position, and a second portion which 5 is displaced by the blade-carrier when the blade is in its retracted position to disengage the first portion from said part of the tool body.

25) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 23, comprising a blade-carrier and wherein the means which lock the blade in its 10 retracted position as the cartridge is removed from the tool comprise a pivoting catch having a first portion which engages the blade-carrier when the blade is in its retracted position and the cartridge is outside of the tool, and a second portion which is displaced by a part of the tool body when the blade 15 is inserted into the tool to disengage the first portion from the blade-carrier.

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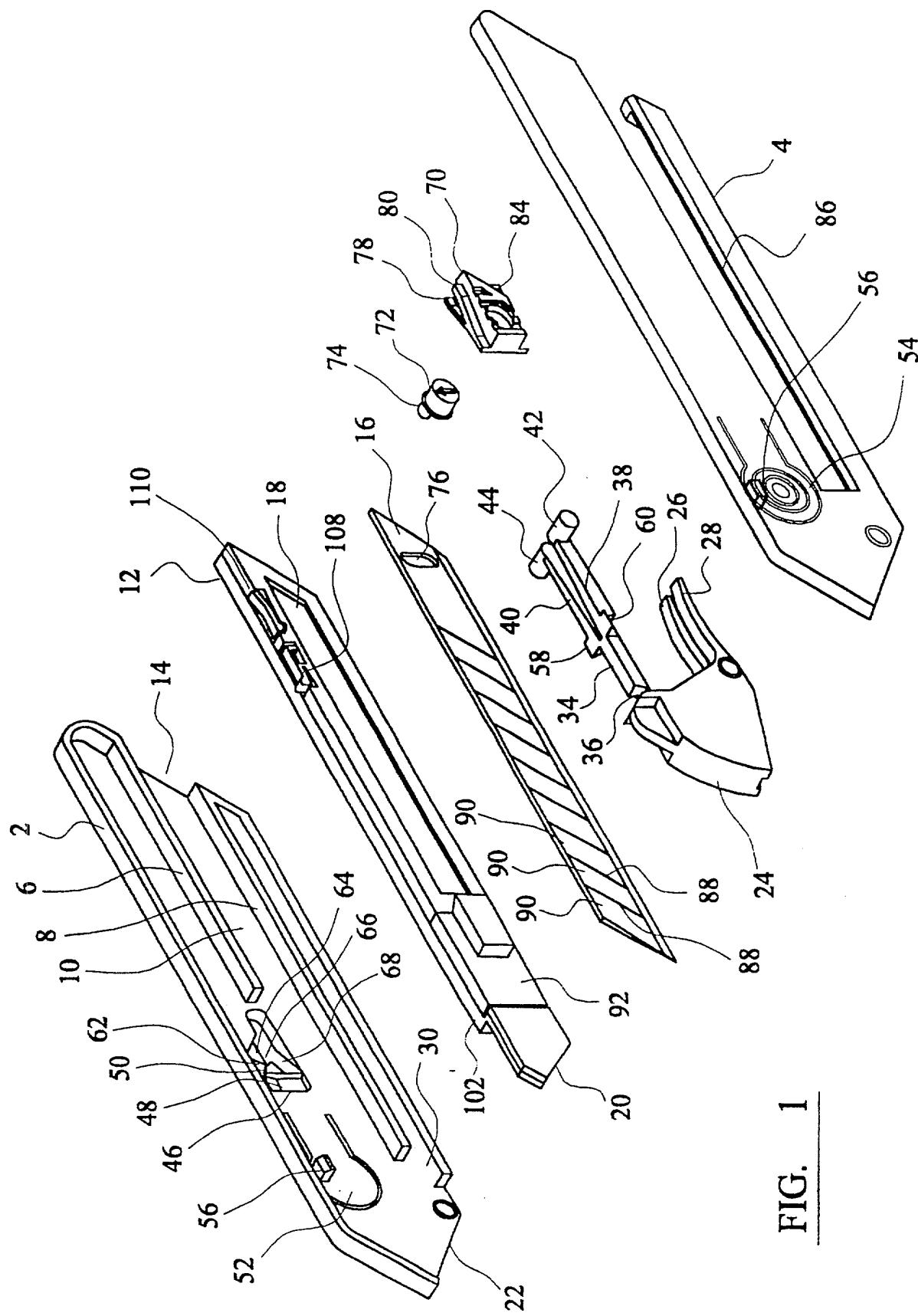


FIG. 1

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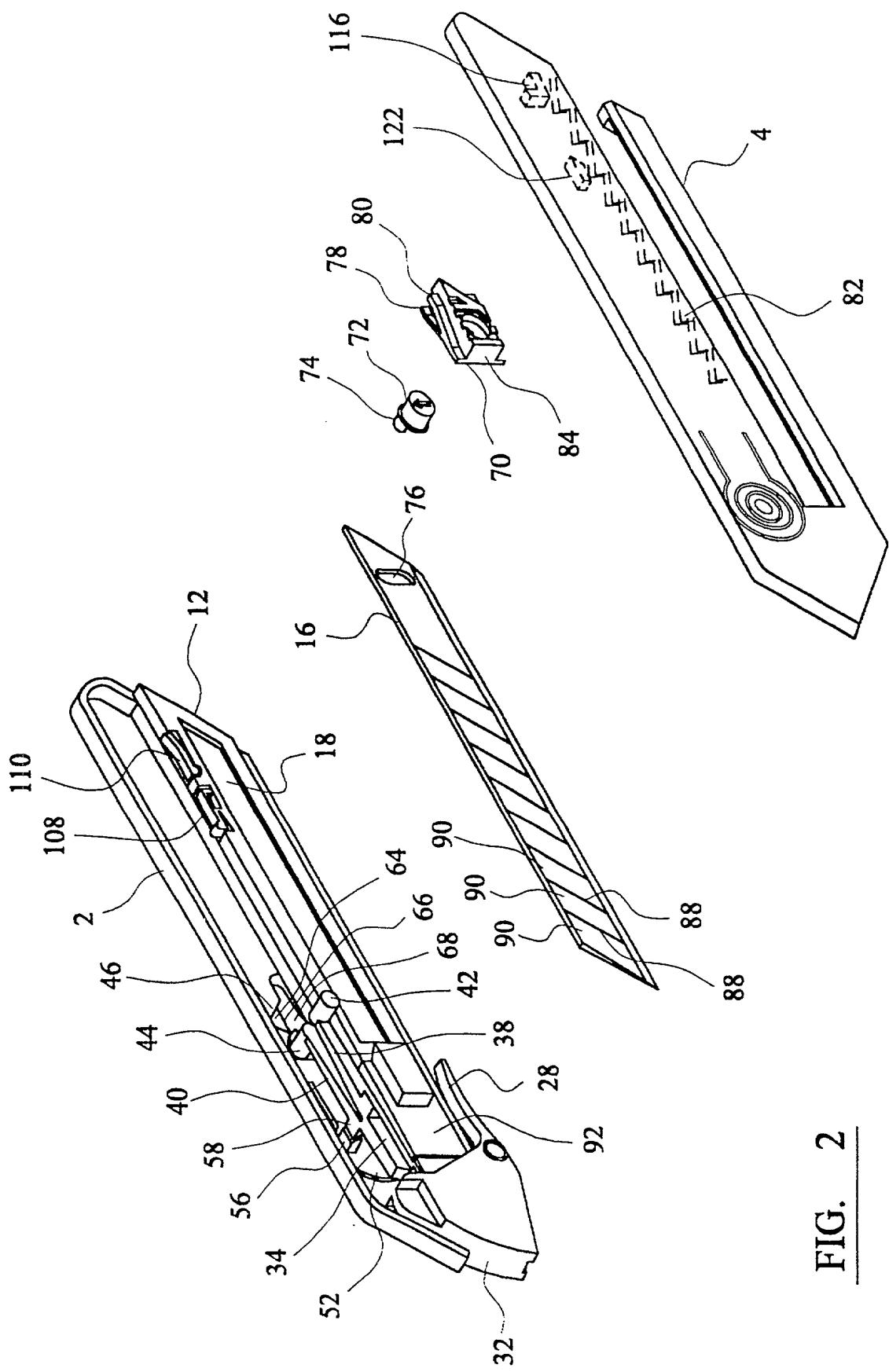


FIG. 2

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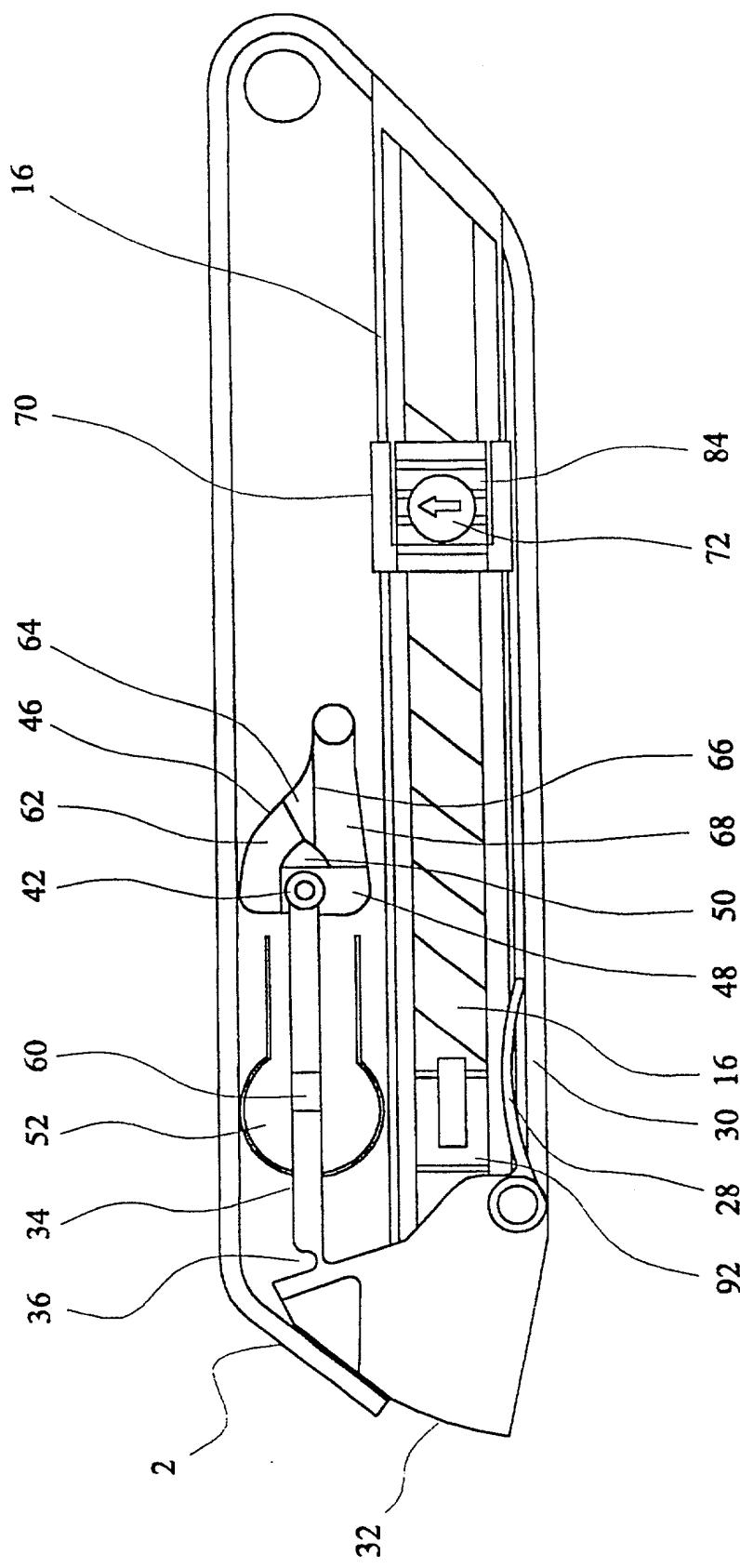


FIG. 3

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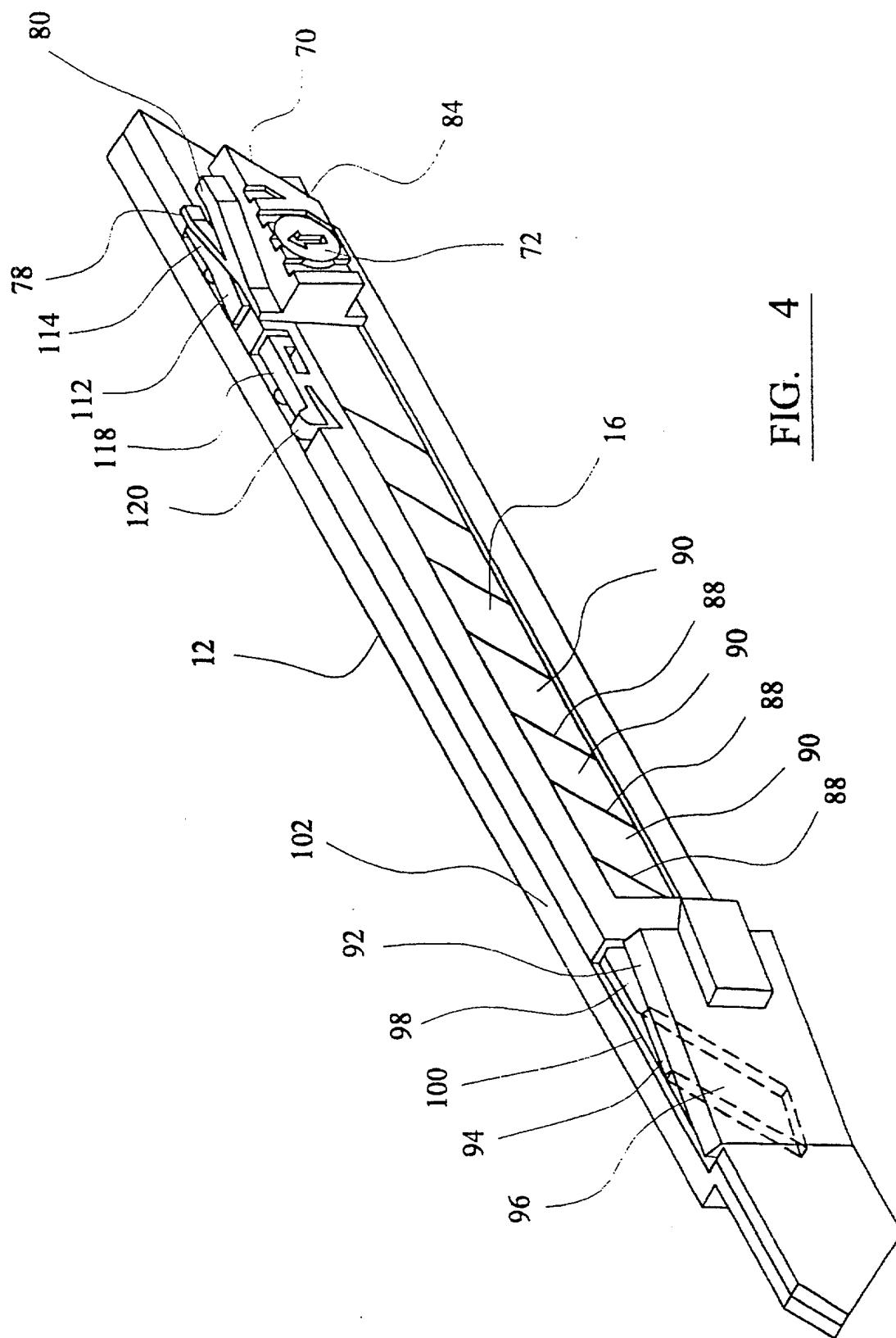
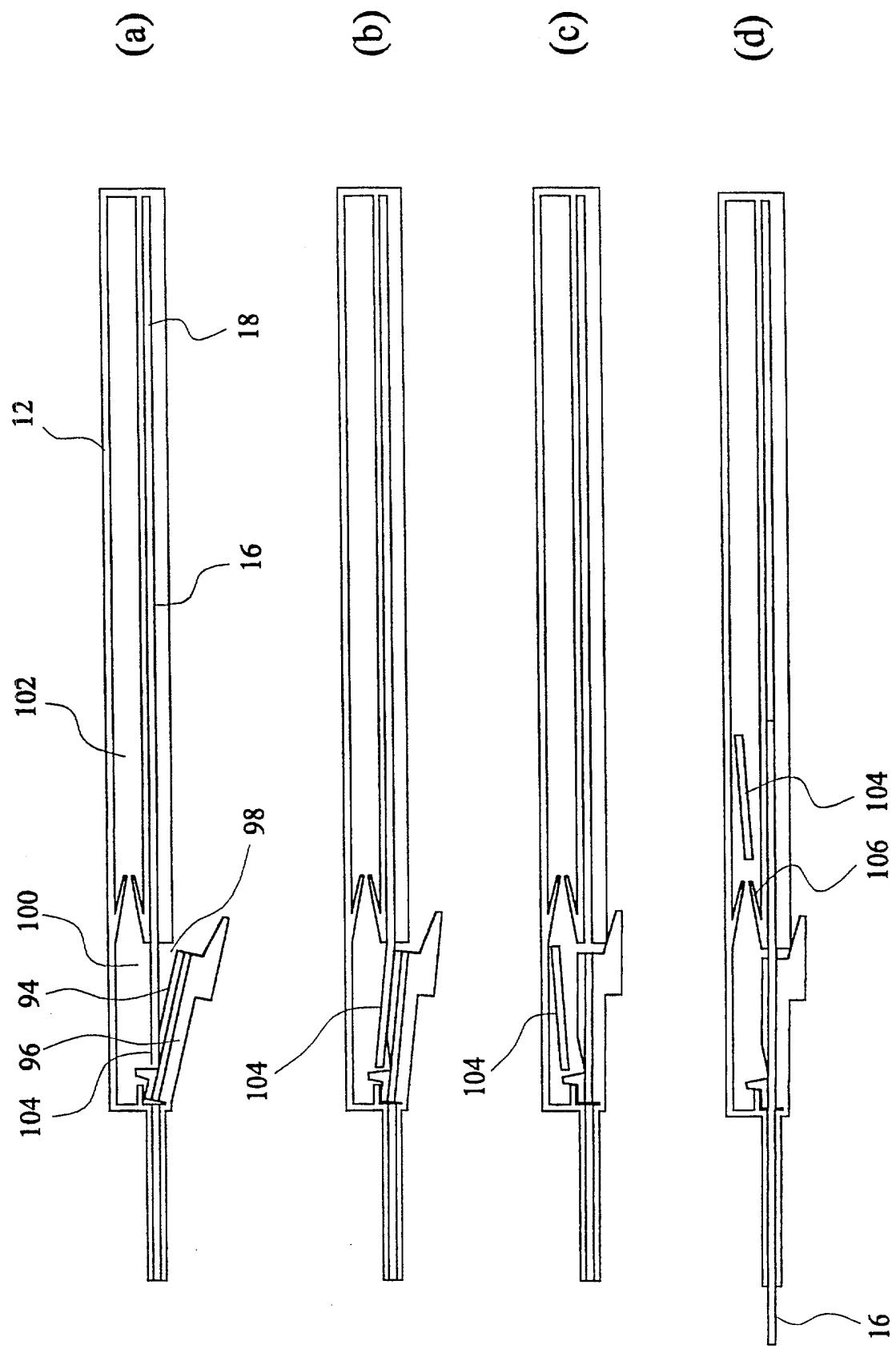
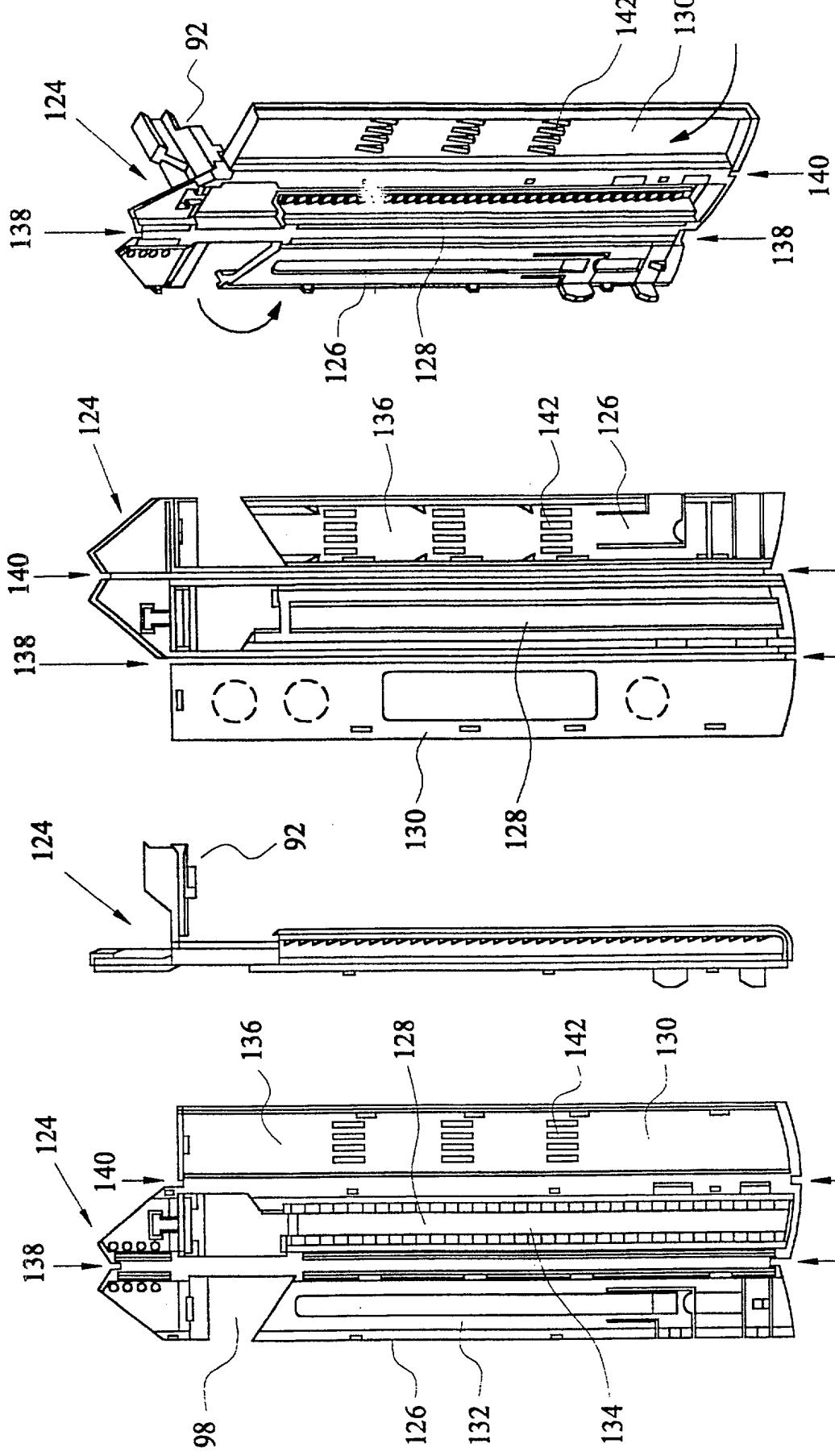


FIG. 4



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-7/7-

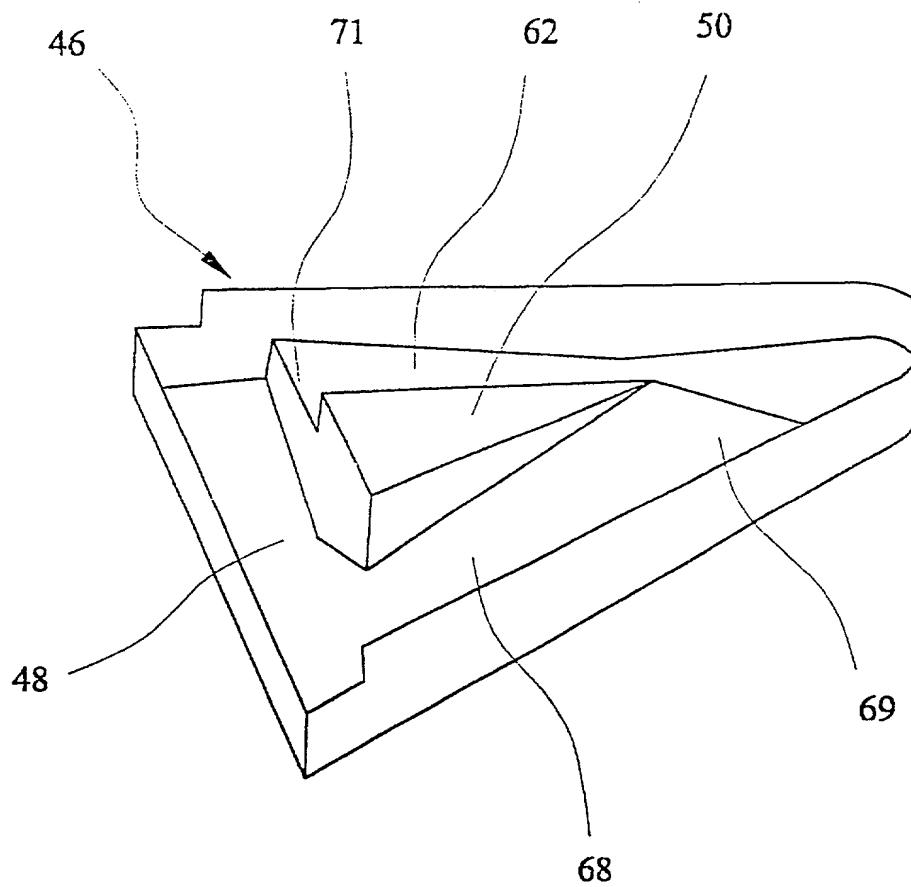


FIG. 10

COMBINED DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

(includes Reference to PCT International Applications)

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

Cutting Tool

the specification of which (check only one item below):

is attached hereto.

was filed as United States application

Serial No. _____

on _____,

and was amended

on _____ (if applicable).

was filed as PCT international application

Number PCT/GB00/01493on 17th April 2000,

and was amended under PCT Article 19

on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed:

PRIOR FOREIGN/PCT APPLICATION(S) AND ANY PRIORITY CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 119:

COUNTRY (if PCT, indicate "PCT")	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 USC 119
United Kingdom	9909317.1	23rd April 1999	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America that is/are listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in that/those prior application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

PRIOR U.S. APPLICATIONS OR PCT INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS DESIGNATING THE U.S. FOR BENEFIT UNDER 35 U.S.C. 120:

U.S. APPLICATIONS		STATUS (Check one)		
U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER	U.S. FILING DATE	PATENTED	PENDING	ABANDONED

PCT APPLICATIONS DESIGNATING THE U.S.

PCT APPLICATION NO.	PCT FILING DATE	U.S. SERIAL NUMBERS ASSIGNED (if any)

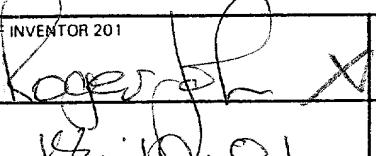
POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. (List name and registration number)

Edwin D. Schindler (registration No. 31,459)

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 201 	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 202	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 203
DATE <u>4/21/01</u>	DATE	DATE